

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

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PEACE TREATY PARLEY PROPOSED

Democratic Germany Writes to Four Powers

The Big Four Powers should establish a commission to start work on the terms of a peace treaty with Germany, the Government of the German Democratic Republic officially proposed on September 5th. At the same time the two German states should form a second commission which would be charged with reaching a common German standpoint on the question.

The proposal for Four Power talks on a peace treaty was made in notes from the Government of the German Democratic Republic

addressed to Britain, the USA, France and the Soviet Union. Since no diplomatic relations exist between the German Democratic Republic and the three western powers, the note was handed over in Prague to the ambassadors of these powers by the Foreign Ministry of Czechoslovakia, which had agreed to offer its good offices for this purpose. The note to the Soviet Union was handed over in Moscow in the normal manner by the Ambassador of the German Democratic Republic.

The note to the Big Four, the

main points of which are quoted in full below, stated that the conditions now existed for the conclusion of a peace treaty. The peace treaty question was that part of the German problem which fell within the competence of the Great Powers.

In a separate note addressed to the Government of the West German Federal Republic, the Government of the German Democratic Republic called for the formation of a commission composed of representatives of both German states which could attempt to reach a common German standpoint on peace treaty negotiations.

This commission should also concern itself with questions which are exclusively the business of the two German states. "In this connection both German Governments should proceed from the point of view that a unification of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic cannot be achieved by extending the state and social order of one state to the other" this note stated.

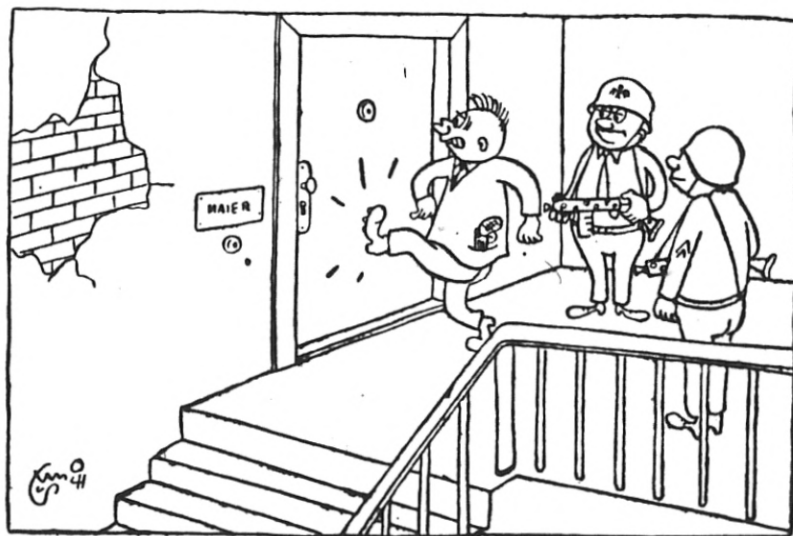
The note to West Germany condemned recent West German Government efforts to hand over to a Big Power commission responsibility for working out proposals on German unification. Such steps are "unrealistic and contrary to the interests of the German people" the note said.

Simultaneously the Government of the German Democratic Republic issued a long declaration reviewing the background to these new proposals. The main points from this declaration are printed below.

(Letters and statement inside)

"TRICK-CYCLICAL WARFARE"

West German Defence Minister Strauss has just established a "Psychological Defence Unit", charged with the task of "combatting the Communist menace" in West Germany).



"Open up! Here is the Psychochog ... I mean here is Trichologic ... Oh to hell with the name: Here's the Gestapo!"

(Cartoon by Erich Schmitt, "Berliner Zeitung")

1. Declaration of the Government of the German Democratic Republic

Here are the main points from the declaration of the Government of the German Democratic Republic:

...The maintenance of peace is the most important pre-condition for the peaceful reunification of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany, ed.) and the German Federal Republic (West Germany, ed.). No progress can be made in this respect if the peace-loving forces, both in Germany and on the international plane, are not able to stop the imperialist war-mongers and ensure a real relaxation of tension...

For the Government of the German Democratic Republic the will to peace of the German people was and remains the main force governing its actions. The Government has taken many steps to ensure peace in Germany and to prevent the development of a new danger-spot of war on German soil. The aggressive forces in West Germany and in the United States should, however, be left in no doubt that all their efforts to undermine the workers' and peasants' state or even to conquer it by military force, will end in a complete fiasco. The attempt to press ahead with the policy of strength, and to solve the German problem by warlike means would cost the German people an enormous sacrifice in property and blood. It is, however, certain that such an attempt could only end with the destruction of the aggressors.

We note with satisfaction that the people of West Germany and all other nations are realising that peace in Germany emanates from the German Democratic Republic, and that the peaceful solution of the national question of the reunification of our nation can only be achieved by means of an understanding between the two German states.

The integration of the Federal Republic in the NATO Pact, and the

efforts being made for the total atomic rearmament of the Federal Republic are in complete contradiction to the national interests of the German people. This course means that the policy of West Germany becomes ever more subject to the interests of NATO, and to the decisions of its general staff. It makes Germany the centre of the atomic war danger in Europe. The implementation of the Bonn plans for atomic armament prevents an understanding being reached between the two German states on the first step to bring them nearer together, and their later reunification in a united, peace-loving and democratic state. For this reason the main task of the German people at the present moment is to prevent the atomic armament of West Germany, and to strike out with determination along the path of relaxation of tension and the peaceful solution of controversial questions.

Although it is certain that the overwhelming majority of the population of West Germany decisively rejects atomic armament, the Adenauer Government continues its policy of preparation for atomic warfare; recently this government has enormously sharpened the cold war by methods described as "psychological struggle". This is the aim of the regular circulation of slanders about the German Democratic Republic. To date the West German Government has not made one single constructive proposal which could bring the national vital question of the German people one step nearer to solution. This government clings to the opinion that the establishment of a united Germany is a matter for the Four Great Powers. Its aim is to prevent negotiations between the two German states on bringing them nearer to each other: at the same time it wishes to pursue without hindrance its imperialist concept of integrating the German Democratic

Republic into the Federal Republic by force.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has often pointed out that the conception of the Federal Government with regard to the German problem cannot be reconciled with the national interests of the German people. The Bonn plans to solve the German problem by force are completely impossible of achievement, but they represent an ever-present danger to peace in Germany and in Europe, and they help to increase tension in the international field.

In order to camouflage its real aims, and to weaken the growing opposition to its policy, the Federal Government repeatedly attempts to steer the solution of our national problem on to the wrong road, a road leading to war. A short while ago the government pushed through the Federal Parliament a resolution calling upon the Four Powers to establish a body which should work out proposals for the solution of the problem of re-establishing German unity. This apparent initiative has nothing in common with the endeavour to re-unite the two German states as one peace-loving and democratic state.

The implementation of the Bonn proposal for a Four Power body to solve the problem of German unity would mean that an alien decision would be imposed on the German people in the question of its state and social order. A decision on this question is, however, a question for the German people alone. The unification of the two German states cannot be a matter for foreign powers, not even for the Four Great Powers; it is the innate right of the German people themselves. The German people will not allow anyone to deprive them of their right to self-determination, the highest right of any nation.

The manoeuvre of the Federal Parliament and the Federal Government is directed not only against the interests of the German people, but also against the peace interests of other nations. It is designed to divert attention from the problem of maintaining peace in Europe, the basic precondition for the unification of the two German states.

With its proposal for the establishment of a German Confederation the Government of the German Democratic Republic has shown a feasible way, under the present conditions, to produce a peaceful and democratic unification of the two German states. The implementation of this proposal would prevent the German nation from growing further apart, and would lead to a closing of relations and finally to a unification of the two German states. The proposal made by the German Democratic Republic does not include any demands or conditions unacceptable

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to the West German Government; it would not entail any surrender of the basis of the state and social order either in the Federal Republic or in the German Democratic Republic.

In the present situation it has become more necessary than ever before to take measures aimed at ensuring the peaceful life of the German people and a peaceful development in Europe. The main need is for immediate preparations for the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany. This would contribute to a relaxation of tension in Germany and in Europe. A settlement of the problems connected with the peace treaty with Germany would open the perspective for a lasting peace settlement in Europe.

It is understandable that the German people, and all nations which participated in the Second World War, make specific claims in connection with a peace treaty with Germany. Such a peace treaty must guarantee the security of the whole of Europe, and must guarantee the German people a life of peace and quiet. At the 5th Party Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Walter Ulbricht, the First Deputy Prime Minister, pointed out that the drafting of a peace treaty was directly connected with the establishment of an atom-free zone in Europe, a zone of thinned-out armaments, the step-by-step withdrawal of the foreign troops from both German states, and the removal of foreign military bases in all European countries. He declared further that with the help of a peace treaty the wall must be removed which has been erected by the remilitarisation in West Germany and the integration of West Germany in

NATO; this wall prevents any step being taken for the peaceful settlement of the national question of the German people.

At the 5th Party Congress Walter Ulbricht answered the question as to the basis of a peace treaty with Germany. He said that a united peace-loving democratic and independent Germany must not be bound to any military block or economic association like the European Community of Iron and Steel. This would mean that West Germany would have to leave the NATO, and that the German Democratic Republic would have to leave the Warsaw Pact.

Walter Ulbricht expressed the common will of all peace-loving Germans in declaring that in order to guarantee human rights and basic freedoms for all German citizens it was necessary to do away with the militarist and fascist forces, and that there would be no place in a peace-loving and democratic Germany for organisations inimical to the cause of peace and democracy.

The government declaration then outlined the proposals made in the notes to the Four Great Powers and to the West German Government. Dealing with the commission to be established by the two German states the declaration said:

This German commission could also be extremely important from another aspect. It could be commissioned to push forward the establishment of a united, peace-loving and democratic German state, a matter which is solely the concern of the two German states.

The commission should deal with questions connected with the relations of the two German states with

each other. This could lead to discussions on economic relations, customs and currency matters, transport and telecommunications and so on.

The question of making travel between the two German states easier could also be solved in this way, provided the Federal Republic is prepared to renounce support for any attempts to undermine constitutional conditions in the German Democratic Republic through spies and secret agents.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic is prepared to nominate its representatives for such negotiations. It states that it would give its representatives the task of negotiating with representatives of the Federal Republic on a basis of equality and in a spirit of understanding.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has already expressed the point of view that a unification of the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic cannot be achieved by means of a transfer of the state and social order of one state to the other.

We are living in times when, as a result of the policy of some imperialist powers, the Damocles' sword of an atomic war is constantly suspended over mankind. This danger can only be averted if the governments of states with different social systems approach a lessening of tension in the international situation step by step, directing their attention first to the solution of problems which will assist progress. Amongst these problems is the preparation of a Peace Treaty with Germany.

2. Note from the German Democratic Republic to Britain, USA, France & Soviet Union

(Unofficial Translation by Foreign Ministry of German Democratic Republic)

More than 13 years have passed since the Second World War and still no peace treaty has been concluded with Germany. The German people demand that finally all parties concerned quite seriously approach the settlement of this question and become aware of their responsibility for the future of the German people and for peace in Europe. The question of the peace treaty is that part of the German problem the solution of which falls under the competence of all former belligerent states, whereby the Four Powers and the two German states are bearing the main responsibility. A peace treaty with Germany would be a decisive contribution to a peaceful development in Europe corresponding to the interests of all peoples. The preparation of such a treaty which at the present moment is absolutely possible furthermore would be a first step towards the settlement of the questions connected with the German problem.

During the last years the Govern-

ment of the German Democratic Republic has repeatedly undertaken measures in order to bring about a settlement of the question concerning the peace treaty with Germany. These measures unfortunately were not supported by the Western Powers which are likewise responsible for the drawing up of a peace treaty with Germany.

In the interest of an early conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany the Government of the German Democratic Republic suggests to the Government of the United States of America, of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of the Republic of France, to immediately form a commission consisting of representatives of the Four Powers, which will have the task of starting consultation regarding the preparation of a peace treaty with Germany. This also includes the agreement to be reached as to the stage and form according to which the two German states are

to be invited as parties to the negotiations.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic believes that the formation of such a commission would essentially accelerate the conclusion of the peace treaty with Germany and contribute to promoting the settlement of this urgent international and most important national German problem...

The Government of the German Democratic Republic expresses its expectations that the Governments of the Four Powers will agree to the proposal to form a commission of representatives of the Four Powers charged with the above mentioned tasks. It hopes that formation of the commission can be carried out speedily and that it can start working as soon as possible. This would correspond to the desire of the entire German people and would contribute to achieving further progress for the peaceful settlement of the German question.

3. Note from the German Democratic Republic to the German Federal Republic

The Government of the German Democratic Republic proposes to the Government of the German Federal Republic that a commission of representatives of both German states be set up to concern itself with questions connected with the preparation of a peace treaty with Germany.

With the aid of this committee efforts could be made towards reaching a common German standpoint for the negotiations to be held with the Four Powers.

This commission should also concern itself with such questions as are exclusively the business of the two German states. Immediate steps could be introduced which would contribute to the creation of a united, peace-loving and democratic German state. In this connection both German governments should proceed from the point of view that a unification of the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic cannot be achieved by extend-

ing the state and social order of one state to the other.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic expects the Government of the German Federal Republic to renounce further attempts to remove the solution of the German question from the competence of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic and hand it over to other powers.

The decision, presented by the Federal Government and accepted by the Federal Parliament, to set up a Four Power commission which should work out proposals for the unification of the two German states is an insistence on the view-point that the unification is a matter for foreign powers and not for the German people.

This would cut out the German people and force upon them an alien decision as to their state and social order. The decision on a matter concerning the German states rests, however, entirely with the German

people. Any attempt to ignore the German people's right to self-determination must end in failure.

The step taken by the Federal Parliament is unrealistic and contrary to the interests of the German people and the peaceful interests of other peoples. The Federal Parliament's decision does not contribute to creating the necessary conditions for the unification of the two German states but makes it more difficult. It thus in no way contributes to the peaceful solution of the German question.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic expresses the hope that the Government of the German Federal Republic will agree to the setting up of a commission of representatives of the two German states to deal with the tasks stated above, so that this can be done speedily and the commission can take up its duties. This would correspond to the wishes of the entire German people and without doubt contribute to further progress in the peaceful solution of the German question.

Credits, Specialists for Arab Republic

Democratic Germany will grant the United Arab Republic a long-term credit of 7,500,000 Egyptian Pounds; specialists from the German Democratic Republic will help in the industrialisation of the Arab Republic; and specialists from Egypt will study at universities in East Germany.

These were the main points of an agreement concluded in Berlin on August 29th between the German Democratic Republic and the United Arab Republic. Political observers in Berlin regarded the agreement as the most important of its kind so far concluded between Democratic Germany and a non-socialist country.

The agreement was worked out between a delegation from the United Arab Republic, led by Dr Aziz Sedky, Minister of Industry, and a delegation led by Heinrich Rau, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, who is simultaneously Minister for Internal and External Trade.

Here are the main points of the official communiqué on the negotiations, issued on August 29th:

"The subject for negotiation was the discussion of questions affect-

ing the extension of economic and technical cooperation between the German Democratic Republic and the United Arab Republic. Particular attention was paid to the possibility of the cooperation of the German Democratic Republic in the implementation of the Egyptian Five Year Plan for the industrialisation of the country.

"As a result of the negotiations, an agreement was signed on economic and technical cooperation . . . In addition, agreement was reached on scientific-technical cooperation between the two countries.

"Under the agreement on economic and technical cooperation the Government of the German Democratic Republic grants the Government of the United Arab Republic a credit of 7,500,000 Egyptian Pounds. This credit will take the form of the long-term supply of complete industrial installations and equipment, together with other products of the engineering industry of the German Democratic Republic.

"The agreements also deal with support for the United Arab Republic in industrialisation in the

form of the dispatch of specialists from the German Democratic Republic. In addition, Egyptian specialists will extend their scientific and technical knowledge both by course at universities in the German Democratic Republic, and by practical training in factories and institutes.

"The partners to the negotiations were of the opinion that the agreements reached will be of great importance for a further development of relations between the two countries.

"The negotiations between the two government delegations were conducted in a very friendly atmosphere and in a spirit of mutual understanding."

Leipzig Fair Opens

Foreign exhibitors from a total of 38 countries showed their goods at the Leipzig Autumn Trade Fair, which opened on September 7th. The area occupied by exhibitors from capitalist countries was one-third bigger than at the 1957 fair, it was officially announced.

CONCENTRATION CAMP GUARD AS ADENAUER PARLIAMENTARIAN

Candidature Rouses West German Press

A former member of Hitler's SS Black Guard and one-time watchman in a nazi concentration camp will stand as a candidate of Chancellor Adenauer's Christian Democratic Party in the autumn elections to the Provincial Parliament in Bavaria.

Here are some West German press comments on this and other steps towards the rehabilitation of old nazis in West Germany:

"Der Spiegel", Hamburg, August 27th:

The more Hitler's 'Thousand Year Reich' fades in the memory of West German citizens, the greater becomes the number of office-holders of that epoch who penetrate the framework of the young Bonn Republic and climb into higher positions.

The so-called bourgeois parties, in particular, find it right to place former officials of the nazi party and its affiliated organisations in administrative positions, or to delegate them to seats in the various elected bodies from municipal councils to the Federal Parliament. However, it has been left to the Bavarian Christian Social Union (the Bavarian branch of the Christian Democratic Party, ed.) to name as representative of the people a real live concentration camp guard.

This man, whom the Christian Socialists want to see elected to the Bavarian Provincial Parliament in autumn, is named Peter Pruecklmayer, aged 49. He comes from Hallertau, a well-known hop-growing centre. He has spent the greater part of his life in Hallertau, but he also knows the former concentration camp Mauthausen well, from his duties there as concentration camp guard...

In July he was presented as candidate to a delegate conference of the Christian Social Union... and was selected by a big majority. Pruecklmayer feels he is already as good as in parliament: 'The rest will be easy' he says.

He claims that he found it much more difficult to get accepted in the SA (nazi storm troops, ed.). In autumn 1933 he was told that he ought to have joined earlier, but finally he was accepted and in 1935 he transferred to the mounted section of the SA.

On November 10th 1939, Pruecklmayer recalls, he joined the Waffen SS, and as a sergeant of this formation he went on duty at Mauthausen concentration camp as prison guard.

Pruecklmayer says today: 'Let's be honest. We all knew at that time that Jews were being shot.' But he declares that at Mauthausen he never saw anything of the sort happening. The British historian Gerald Reitlinger describes Mauthausen in these words: 'It is impossible to visualise behind the geometric military and Teutonic neatness of Mauthausen the filth, overcrowding, hunger, corpses and tortures which were characteristic of the place till May 1945'.

According to Pruecklmayer, his relations with the Jewish inmates were mainly confined to his having his boots cleaned by the inmates, for which service he rewarded them generously with cigarettes. The Christian Social Union is convinced of the immaculate past of Peter Pruecklmayer.

The Christian Social Union does not appear to have realised that it is, to say the very least, unparalleled bad taste to present even the most harmless of concentration camp guards as a parliamentary candidate. When Alois Klughammer, provincial director of the Christian Social Union, was queried on the subject he replied: 'We are not absolutely enthusiastic about the candidature'. In addition, Klughammer has some information which is intended to be taken as an excuse: 'He was only there for 14 days, and was not a proper member of the guard squad'. This information does not, however, agree with Pruecklmayer's own statement that he was a member of the regular guard squad, and that he served there for between four and five months.

"Westfaelische Rundschau", Dusseldorf, August 30th:

The restoration, the rebirth of the old and that which is past, is going ahead faster than ever. Today, the most influential positions in the state and in public life are filled to a high percentage with former nazis. In the Federal Government, in the various

provincial governments, in the administration, and in various newspapers, persons who were formerly prominent have returned to power. Many of them have gone through no process of inner change.

We often hear talk of the danger of a communist undermining, and that something must be done about it. The Federal Defence Minister has invented 'psychological defence' against the danger of communist ideas. But this danger is certainly no greater than the danger which the nazi penetration presents to our democratic state.

The communist danger is presented in the blackest colours: but we hear very little about the nazi spirit which is spreading. There are few newspapers which dare to call the danger by its proper name.

We need not go in fear of new concentration camps: not yet! But the state of mind which established these camps has by no means vanished. Many of those who formerly wore the brown or the black uniform have now draped a democratic cloak round their shoulders. We cannot warn against them too early or too often. If we do not take care, we shall wake up one day to find our democracy hung from a symbolic swastika.

"Hessische Nachrichten", Kassel, August 30th:

Recent court decisions (such as the grant of a pension to the widow of SS Commander Heydrich, ed.) must obviously lead to a rehabilitation of the nazi ideology in the heads of morally confused citizens. After the war crimes trials of Nuremberg and Dachau, some people blamed the allies for trying Germans who should have appeared before German judges and been tried by German law. This charge would have had some foundation if the German authorities, acting on their own initiative, had called the guilty men to account: but they did not do this. Where trials were held, they were generally brought about by the activities of people who had by chance survived the massacres. The competent authorities have obviously not found it necessary even to read the existing

literature on the 'final solution of the Jewish problem', the 'SS State' and so on. Otherwise they would have discovered for themselves the names of people like Eisele, Kromey and Reinefarth.

It would be better for all of us if these men had been brought before the courts long ago, instead of being able to establish themselves as doctors, local councillors, and mayors. If there had been a real will to expose these deeds systematically, we could have concluded all the cases

by now. But the conspiracy of silence is still effective ...

"SPD Pressedienst" (Social Democratic Press Service), August 22nd:

The time has come to clear up the case of the concentration camp doctors once and for all, so that we can be sure in future that there are no longer any of these murderers and experimenters in the ranks of German doctors. There were many dozens of Nazi concentration camps. There is plenty of information about them: the Document Center at Arol-

sen can provide the information. SS doctors were active in all these camps: not all of them are necessarily guilty, there were some exceptions. The associations of political, religious and racial persecutees can give full details. The lists of persons involved can be submitted to the relevant offices and organisations, and there are plenty of ways and means of preventing guilty concentration camp doctors from pursuing the profession against whose most elementary principles they have offended.

The New York Times

Reader's Letter Protests West German Re-Nazification

The following reader's letter was published by the "New York Times" on August 25th:

Harry Gilroy's dispatch published on August 3rd, "German Schools Shun Hitler Era", and the Reuter report appearing in the same issue concerning the reception accorded former Grand Admiral Doenitz, who spoke before a reunion of former U-boat officers and men, illustrate certain trends in the Bonn Republic.

Efforts are being made to glorify dictatorship and to "denazify" Hitler and his National Socialist party.

So far the educational system (in West Germany — ed.) has not produced one school textbook teaching young Germans the crimes of Hitler and his party, their war guilt, aggressions, massacres of Jews and other civilians, etc.

Young Germans are taught daily the so-called good things which Hitler brought to the German people. Moreover, Germany's young people living in a prosperous era are not reminded of the horrors of Hitler's lost war, ruins being a matter of the past. The "good sides" of Hitler's dictatorship are being praised even by members of Dr. Adenauer's party.

It is obvious that soldiers who do not know the crimes of Hitler and his party, but who spring to their defense and can list the "good sides" of dictatorship, are not very valuable as fighters for freedom and democracy. How about their officers?

Unfortunately, Americans so far have neither been permitted to learn their names and records nor their beliefs, with the exception of a few generals. It is known, however, that the Bundeswehr accepts as officers leaders of Hitler's dreaded Elite Guard (SS) up to the rank of Lieutenant colonel, and that the Elite

Guard's leaders are fighting for the acceptance of SS "colonels" and "generals".

What Americans do not know is that murder of civilians by the military has again been legalised by the Germans.

During the Weimar Republic numerous civilians, including Rathenau and Erzberger, were liquidated by the "Feme" of the "Black Reichswehr". The courts, staffed by judges hostile to the republic, generally excused these murders.

Now again the murder of civilians by the SS during the last days of World War II has been excused, although until recently German courts have held that since the Third Reich was not a legitimate state, citizens not only had the right but the duty to resist it.

In the case of Simon et al., some inhabitants of the village of Bretenheim near Rottenberg tried to interfere with the senseless "defence" of their village by the SS. The SS liquidated them on the spot on the basis of martial law. The court of Ansbach freed the defendants.

Presiding judge of the Ansbach court was Dr. Andreas Schmidt, "old Nazi fighter" and Nazi party member since 1927. Court experts were: convicted war criminal General Kesselring, pardoned many years ago as "dying of cancer" but now president of the chauvinistic "Stahlhelm" veterans' organisation; Dr. Reinecke, Hitler's director of Main Office "SS Court"; Dr. Brandstaetter, Senior Judge Advocate of Hitler's Corps of Judge Advocates, now Bundeswehr Judge Advocate and senior official in the Ministry of Defence in Bonn.

In view of these facts, it is legitimate to inquire what is going on

in the German Bundeswehr. As far as I can judge, the American people are willing to accept German soldiers as allies. But they are not willing to accept Nazis or neo-Nazis as allies in the struggle for freedom and democracy. Nor would it be to their best interest if they would.

Our Government should be induced to ask our democracy-loving friends in Germany to investigate the indoctrination of their soldiers both in the army and in their civilian schools prior to enlistment. The usual "public relations" reply of both Washington and Bonn that everything is for the best should not be accepted ...

Frederick Wallace.

Medal for Resistance Fighters

A special medal struck by the Government of the German Democratic Republic has been awarded to 14,900 men and women who played a prominent part in fighting against the Nazi tyranny in the years 1933 to 1945. The new medal was presented to the resistance fighters in connection with the International Memorial Day for the Victims of Fascist Terror on September 7th. Amongst those who received the medal were a very high proportion of the men and women who today serve Democratic Germany in the cabinet and in other high governmental positions. They included Communists, former Social Democrats, Protestant ministers and others who had taken an active part in the fight against Hitler both in Germany and abroad.

SS Murderer "Has No Time"

It was revealed on September 1st that former SS Major General Heinz Jost, one of the major nazi murderers, is today living peacefully in Dusseldorf, West Germany, as a lawyer specialising in economic affairs.

The disclosure came when ex-General Jost failed to attend a West Berlin court which is dealing with the winding up of the financial affairs of former nazi leaders. His lawyer stated that Jost could not come to court because he "had no time".

During the war period Jost occupied a series of key positions in the nazi-occupied western parts of the Soviet Union. In 1942 he was commander of one of the "Einsatzgruppen", composed mainly of criminals and perverts which had the sole task of ranging occupied territory in the east and executing Jews, political commissars, and other "unwanted elements". Details of his wartime role are given in document No. 5884 of the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal.

Jost has never been brought to trial for his crimes. After the war a West German denazification court classified him as a "non-active nominal nazi".

Ex-Premier Visits Democratic Germany

M. Felix Gouin, Socialist Prime Minister of France in 1946, has just concluded a short tour of the German Democratic Republic. At the conclusion of his visit M. Gouin stated: "I take with me unforgettable memories of the homeland of Goethe and Schiller. Despite all the ideological questions which may divide us, we are united by three great things: a common love of peace, common hate of fascism, and our mutual belief in the future of mankind in a world in which socialism has triumphed."

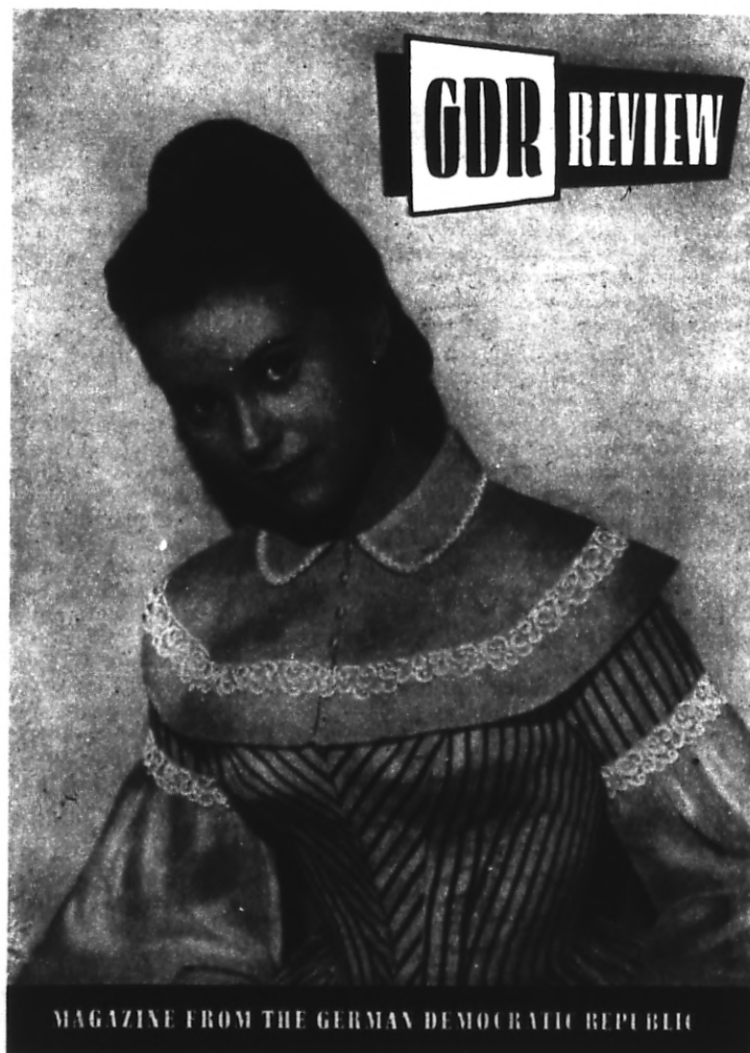
Rumanian Terrorist Caught

A Rumanian terrorist who took part in the raid on the Rumanian Legation in Switzerland in February 1955 was arrested in East Berlin on August 31st after a gun battle.

The East Berlin police announced that the Rumanian, Oliviu Beldeanu, drew a pistol and started shooting when he was stopped and asked for his papers. The police had to use force to overcome him. Beldeanu was sentenced to four years imprisonment by a Swiss court for his part in the legation raid, but was later released and deported to West Germany, where he has since been living. No explanation was given as to why he was visiting East Berlin.

(Advertisement)

PICTURES AND STORIES FROM DEMOCRATIC GERMANY



This attractive young lady graces the cover of the latest issue of "GDR Review", the monthly magazine from the German Democratic Republic. The contents of this issue include two illustrated articles on recent developments in art in Democratic Germany, a memorial article on the nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald, and news features on many aspects of life in the German Democratic Republic today.

"GDR Review" is published in English, German, French, Swedish and Spanish. Annual subscriptions, costing 11/-, may be placed with:

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GUEST NOTEBOOK

By Joan Becker

Comparisons are odious, of course, but when I was in England this year some things really forced themselves on my notice, and I was reminded of one the big problems in Democratic Germany — that so many threads were completely broken off in 1945.

I visited my old school in a little country town in Suffolk and met two of my former teachers, now retired. I was a little nervous at first of showing my two children the school, since they attend a pretty good one themselves in Berlin, but was relieved when they passed it with approval, particularly the lawns, rose gardens and pleasant, light new buildings.

This school was founded in 1902 and up till last year had had two headmistresses only. Other teachers had taught there for more than twenty years, and one of those we visited had been connected with it as pupil and then as teacher for forty-seven years. She is now about seventy years old, looks after the old girls' newsletter and corresponds with three generations of old girls all over the world.

I suppose this is very exceptional; still, I know a London woman teacher who has been teaching in the same big London school for about twenty-five years and numbers many old pupils amongst her friends.

This is something which is practically unknown here. When Germany was faced with the task of building up an educational system after the war, very large numbers of teachers had been killed and others could not be used, since their methods and ideas were those of the nazis. A very large number of schools had been bombed to the ground, especially in the big cities, and the whole system of education in rural areas had to be built from the ground up, because there were thousands of one-class schools. There are only three or four of these left in Democratic Germany today, although West Germany has a great number of them and little is being done to improve the situation.

So it is a tremendous achievement that sufficient new teachers have been trained, hundreds of schools rebuilt and newly built, compulsory primary eight-year schooling for all carried out all over Democratic Germany and already many fine new ten-year schools established. Compulsory ten-year education is no longer a far-off dream, but will probably

be carried out everywhere by 1965 at the latest.

But twelve or thirteen years is not very long from the point of view of building up suitable traditions in something so important as general education, and almost every year changes are made, new ideas tried out, new books issued and so on. The big change now is towards more practical education, and since one day a week is to be devoted to this from the seventh school year onwards, it is not difficult to imagine what an upheaval it is making in the schools this year.

Teachers have to be shifted round, children will get part of their instruction from factory apprentices' instructors, works foremen, tractor drivers and members of agricultural production cooperatives. So many more people will be concerned with bringing up children that there will certainly not be the same close connection with a few teachers over a period of years. One thing is clear: the traditions being built up in Democratic Germany, and in other socialist countries, will be quite different from those built up over a very long period of time in other countries. Something may be lost, but responsible people here are looking forward to compensations which will outweigh the loss.

I spent most of my holiday in Somerset and Dorset, in the midst of villages almost exclusively inhabited by Agatha Christie characters living in restored old-world cottages and well-to-do farmers, who have been doing rather well, mainly in dairy-farming, for the last ten or fifteen years. It was quite clear that mechanised farming is still a good way ahead in England; things like hay balers and hedging and ditching machines were quite new to me, and there are certainly more harvesting combines and light tractors to be seen.

But oh! the traffic. You can have too much of a good thing.

This question of mechanisation, too, goes back to 1945. At the end of the war you could probably have counted the agricultural machines left in the eastern part of Germany on your two hands. There was no stock, great stretches of land lay fallow or choked with weeds, houses and outbuildings were falling down. There was no money to import machinery and practically no home

production until it got under way several years later.

Another reason for the late start was the fact that under the Land Reform thousands of peasants, resettlers and former farm workers received very small farms as their own property and until they began to get together in producers' cooperatives, working large stretches of land together, there was not much scope for large machines.

But one unpleasant thing which I saw in England could not happen in Democratic Germany. While in Suffolk we visited my old home — a farm with an old Elizabethan farmhouse. The land looked all right, there were fine new concrete outbuildings, with electric light; but the house itself is literally falling down.

The present owner bought up ten farms in the neighbourhood in 1941 or so. He farms these with his own machines and has let the farmhouses and workers' cottages fall down; one of them has disappeared altogether and the others are ruins buried in ivy. He has done very well financially, but nobody else has benefitted.

Old-fashioned people complain bitterly that there are no "fine old country gentry" in Democratic Germany any longer. After 1945, when there was a terrible shortage of housing in rural areas as well as in the towns, several families took up their quarters together in the old Junkers' mansions; they had no time to look after the gardens and there was little to eat, so they planted vegetables in the front gardens and let the pigs graze on the lawns.

But it would probably be no exaggeration to say that this saved many lives and bridged over the gap until cottages could be repaired or new ones built. Many of these old mansions have now been turned into trade union holiday homes, cultural clubs or small museums. The gardens do not look like English gardens, but people are still very busy and there are no retired colonial officials etc. who would have time to potter in them.

There is one thing, though, over which none of us has any control — the weather. When I left Somerset at the end of August there was hardly a plum to be had for love or money; the unseasonable frosts and heavy rains had ruined the crop. The fruit growing districts round Berlin were spared these disasters this year and we came back to find plenty of plums, tomatoes and summer apples in the shops.